

Seattle City Council

**Public Safety, Government Relations, and Arts Committee Meeting**

Friday, 2:00 PM, September 7, 2007

**Words' Worth**

The Poetry Program of the Seattle City Council

Curated by **Brian McGuigan**

Today's poet is **Steve Barker**

Steve Barker lives in Seattle where he is an editor of the journal *when it rains from the ground up*. He pays the bills as a copywriter for a travel webpage. Most recently his work has appeared in Letter X Magazine, Farmhouse Magazine, and Zygote in my Coffee. For more information, check out [www.myspace.com/barkker](http://www.myspace.com/barkker).

**Somewhere on Pine**

by Steve Barker

cars stacked high  
blanketed in green  
cobblestone cracks filled  
with dead cigarettes  
plastic chairs beaten by sun  
brick camouflaged in vine  
Bush spray painted  
on a stop sign

dirty men in flannel and wool  
share a sidewalk with youth  
in band t-shirts carrying books

the occasional suit  
walks by me  
and must say  
"there's another Seattle cliché"  
my smoke  
my over priced cup  
won't amount to much

still I sit in a roped off patio  
taking notes slow on life  
wondering if happiness comes  
from a dog  
2.5  
a job and a wife

secretly fantasizing  
about screwing my secretary

not thinking  
about my poor bank statement  
or empty fridge  
or lack of interview clothes

or the hard working men in trucks  
who wonder how I can sip my coffee  
in the middle of a weekday  
with a full pack of butts

-- *end* --